Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

November 17-19, 2026

Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort, Ocean City, MD

About the School

The school offers a 2 ½-day format with a variety of breakout sessions. Individuals needing training in soil and water, nutrient management, crop management and pest management can create their own schedule by choosing from **5** program options offered each hour. Emphasis is placed on new and advanced information with group discussion and interaction encouraged.

Who Should Attend

This school is designed for anyone interested in crop management issues, including:

- agronomists
- crop consultants
- extension educators
- farmers and farm managers
- pesticide dealers, distributors, and applicators
- seed and agrichemical company representatives
- soil conservationists
- state department of agriculture personnel

Continuing Education Credits

The 2026 Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School will offer CCA continuing education units (CEUs) approved by the Certified Crop Adviser Program in the following categories:

- Crop Management
- Pest Management
- Soil & Water Management
- Nutrient Management
- Professional Development
- Sustainability

Total CEUs earned will depend on course selection. This school also provides Pesticide Recertification Credits for DE, MD, NJ, PA, WV, and VA and continuing education for Nutrient Management Consultants in DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV.

Registration Information

The early-bird registration fee (recommended to ensure a place in the sessions of your choice) is **$350** if received by **October 23rd**; **$410** if received by **November 6th**. Registration will close on **Friday, November 6th at 11:59 p.m. ET or when enrollment reaches capacity**. Payment of registration fee entitles you to participation in 2½ days of sessions, materials, 3 continental breakfasts, 2 lunches, and refreshment breaks. Eventbrite processing fee is included within the registration fees listed above.

***Required for 2026: GUEST TICKET –** Your registration does not include meals for any additional people joining the event. If you are bringing a guest with you, such as a spouse, and they plan to join the group for

meals, you must add the Guest Ticket to your registration and pay an additional fee. All attendees must present their name badges during the provided meals.

Tuesday Happy Hour and Farm Duel Competition: Join us for Happy Hour at Schooners located inside Princess Royale! We will be hosting collaborators from Kansas State University who will host the friendly "Farm Duel" Competition – make a whole growing season's worth of decisions in an hour, see if you can win the title of "highest yield", "most nutrient efficient", or "most profitable". There will be prizes! Tuesday, 5–7 PM. There will be drinks and limited food menu available for purchase.

2026 CCA Reception – The Mid-Atlantic CCA Board is hosting an off-site evening reception again in 2026 on Wednesday November 18th. The event is free of charge and open to any attendees of Crop School. The CCA of Excellence Award will be presented at the event and 10-, 20-, and 30-year Certified Crop Advisors will be recognized. If you are a current CCA or interested in becoming a CCA, please attend this event to learn more about the benefits of this certification. Seating is limited, you can reserve your spot at the reception at the end of this registration. More details will be provided when they are available.

Enrollment in Crop School and the reception are on a first-come, first-served basis.

All registrations must be completed online and be paid by credit card at the time of registration.*

Visit http://go.umd.edu/26crop to complete your registration online and make your session selections. Once you complete the online registration, you will receive a confirmation email providing verification of your session schedule and receipt of payment.

**If you are unable to provide credit card payment, please contact Ms. Taylor Robinson at taylormr@umd.edu to discuss alternative payment options.*

Questions about registration or payment should be addressed to Ms. Taylor Robinson at taylormr@umd.edu or (301) 226-7840.

Cancellation Policy:

- Cancellations must be processed through Eventbrite prior to registration closure on November 6th.
- Any cancellation requests after November 6th can be emailed to taylormr@umd.edu.

Hotel Reservation Information

The Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort is located at 91st Street in Ocean City, MD. **Contact the hotel directly to make your reservation.**

Either call 1-800-4-ROYALE (1-800-476-9253) and identify yourself by Block Code: 26CROP or as Group Name: University of Maryland Crop Management. You can also book online at:

https://princessroyaleoceanresort.book.pegsbe.com/promo?offerCode=26CROP&hotel=SBY398

Reserve your room no later than **October 16th, 2026** to guarantee the rates below.

- $119 per night (plus applicable fees & taxes) – Pool view
- $169 per night (plus applicable fees & taxes) – Oceanfront

I. Registration

General registration will begin 8:30 am on November 17. Registration packets and information regarding CEUs and re-certification credits will be available at the registration desk. A continental breakfast will be available and all breakout sessions begin at 10:00 am on November 17.

II. Crop Management Sessions

Each Session is Worth 1 CEU in Crop Management unless noted.

A Comparison Between Perennial and Perennial/Annual Combination Forage Systems under Mixed-Species Grazing -- Annual forages can be a high-yielding and high-quality source of forage for

livestock and can increase forage availability across the growing season. However, continued establishment of annual forages within a grazing system requires additional time and financial inputs. This presentation will discuss some of the tradeoffs to consider with annual forage incorporation and will provide preliminary results from a study that was completed to compare a traditional, perennial-based grazing system against a perennial/annual combination grazing system. Objectives of the study were to compare these two systems on the basis of forage production and quality, livestock health and performance, soil health, and economic feasibility. *Dr. Amanda Grev, University of Maryland. Tuesday 10:00am and 11:00am.*

Beyond Yield: Using TAPS to Improve Farm Management Decisions -- Crop management decisions are interconnected, and increasing an individual input does not necessarily improve yield, profit, or efficiency. The Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS) program allows producers to manage replicated field plots by making decisions involving crop selection, seeding rate, irrigation, nitrogen, technology, marketing, and risk management. This presentation will use selected TAPS results to examine how input amount, timing, and coordination affect crop performance and economic outcomes. Case studies will compare management strategies that produced different outcomes—or similar yields with substantially different costs—and identify the agronomic reasons for those results. The presentation will provide a practical framework for evaluating tradeoffs among production, profitability, and resource-use efficiency when making on-farm decisions. *Dr. Daran Rudnick, Kansas State University, and Dr. Chris Proctor, University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Tuesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm.*

Dual Purpose Wheat: Forage and Grain on the Same Acre -- In this presentation, we will discuss what is dual purpose wheat, and how it can provide both winter forage and grain crop. We will discuss agronomic foundations, management considerations, and economic drivers behind dual purpose wheat production, highlighting work conducted in the Southern Great Plains. *Dr. Vaughn Reed, Mississippi State University. Tuesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm.*

Use of Drones for Spraying and Seeding Applications -- The use of drones in agriculture for spraying and seeding applications has increased rapidly in recent years. Information on their application performance, calibration, and other operational considerations, along with some best practices for spraying pesticides and seeding cover crops, will be shared. Research findings on the efficacy of pesticide applications with spray drones in corn and other crops, and broadcasting cover crop seed or other dry materials with drones will be shared. *Dr. Simer Virk, Auburn University. Wednesday 8:00am and 9:00am.*

Assessing Agronomic and Economic Effects of Varying Nitrogen Rates and Split Application Timings in Corn -- Nutrient management is pivotal in optimizing crop inputs to ensure profitable field operations in any cropping system. So, improved corn yields and profitability are also tied to efficient nitrogen (N) management. So far, N has been applied in one or at most two splits in New Jersey corn systems. Yet, there is an upmounting interest in exploring the suitability of additional split applications to see whether it can improve N utilization efficiency, grain yield, and profitability. Undoubtedly, more split applications of N are seen as better agronomic potential but are also tied to increased operational costs, including labor, equipment, fuel, and logistical complexity. Therefore, this study is designed to focus on evaluating the economic and agronomic balance of increasing N split frequency from two to four applications in corn production. Field trials were conducted to equate three total N rates (150, 200, 250 lbs./acre) against three split arrangements: 2 (50% N at V2 + 50% N at V6), 3 (33% N at V2 + 33% N at V6 + 33% N at VT), and 4 (25% N at V2 + 25% N at V6 + 25% N at VT + 25% N at R1)-way splits. V2, V6, VT, and R1 are the different corn growth stages, referred to as the 2-leaf stage, 6-leaf stage, tasseling stage, and silking stage. Research experiments were conducted following a randomized complete block design, testing the aforesaid treatments, making ten (including a check plot with no N) treatments replicated four times in plots sized 30 feet long by 10 feet wide. Primary stakeholders for this study include New Jersey corn producers, agriculture consultants, and agriculture extension educators, all interested in practical findings on optimizing N management without compromising on economic benefits. The data on grain yield, N costs, labor/equipment costs per operation, and net return on investment (ROI) per acre were collected and yet to be statistically analyzed. The expected outcome is to provide farmers with data-driven

recommendations and share field experiences on the effects of increasing split frequency within three different N rates on grain yield and ROI. *Dr. Ramandeep Sharma, Rutgers University. Wednesday 10:10am and 11:10am.*

Starting Cover Crops Before Corn Harvest: Interseeding Timing, Residual Herbicides and Corn Height -- An effective residual herbicide program in corn did not have to come at the expense of an interseeded cover crop. In on-farm research in Nebraska, cover crop biomass from a V2 interseeding was greater following saflufenacil + dimethenamid-P or acetochlor + atrazine than in plots that received no preemergence herbicide. Which active ingredients were used mattered more than whether a residual was applied at all. Interseeding at V2 into short-stature corn also produced more biomass than the same timing in conventional-height corn. This presentation will cover both approaches, where residual programs and interseeded cover crops conflict, and what the timing, seeding rate and canopy tradeoffs look like on farm. *Dr. Chris Proctor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Wednesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm.*

From Raw Yield Monitor Data to Actionable Information -- Yield monitor systems can collect yield data for each second that a combine or harvester is in a field during harvest. This generates a lot of data but what can we do with such data? Join us to learn more about yield monitor data processing and turning raw yield monitor data into actionable information. Anyone interested in dairy sustainability, from farmers and extension advisors to researchers and industry partners, is welcome to join us for this presentation with ample time for questions and discussion. *Dr. Quirine Ketterings, Cornell University. Wednesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm.*

Early Planted Soybean: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly -- Planting soybeans early can be one of the best ways to maximize yield potential, but it also comes with risks. Early-planted soybeans may face challenges from cold temperatures, saturated soils, frost, diseases, insects, and other stressors. This presentation will discuss the most common problems associated with early soybean planting, how these issues can affect stand establishment and yield, and management practices that can help reduce risk. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to improve the success of early-planted soybeans. *Dr. Laura Lindsey, Ohio State University. Thursday 8:00am and 9:00am.*

Does Your Soybean Field Need Replanted? Results from a National Replant Study -- Poor soybean stands can result from wet soils, crusting, frost, hail, insects, slugs, or disease. When soybean populations are reduced, farmers face an important question: Is replanting worth it? This presentation will share results from a national soybean replant study and discuss how planting date and remaining plant population affect yield potential. Attendees will learn how to evaluate damaged stands and use research-based guidelines to make more confident replant decisions. *Dr. Laura Lindsey, Ohio State University. Thursday 10:10am and 11:10am.*

III. Nutrient Management Sessions

Each Session is Worth 1 CEU in Nutrient Management unless noted.

How Does Sulfur Impact Nitrogen Fertilization in Corn -- Nitrogen (N) and sulfur (S) interactions have received renewed attention in modern corn (Zea mays L.) production systems due to increasing yield potential and declining atmospheric S deposition. While S deficiency has become more common, limited information exists regarding how S availability influences corn N response curves, economic optimum N rate (EONR), and overall N utilization across environments. A multi-state collaborative study was initiated to evaluate N × S interactions in corn production systems spanning major U.S. corn-growing regions. During 2025, field experiments were established at 33 site-years across the Central Plains, Mid-South, Corn Belt, and West Coast regions. Minimum treatment structures consisted of five N rates ranging from approximately 50 to 125% of expected optimum N requirements combined with two S rates (0 and an agronomic S rate appropriate for the environment). Several locations included additional S rates and zero-N treatments. Grain yield was measured at all locations, while soil and plant tissue samples were collected to support interpretation of treatment responses. Preliminary analyses indicate significant site-to-site variability in both N and S responses, with several environments exhibiting significant N × S interactions. Initial observations suggest that S additions may influence corn response patterns through multiple mechanisms, including shifts in yield potential at low N availability and changes in response at higher N rates. Ongoing analyses will integrate soil properties and plant

tissue data to quantify the extent to which S availability alters crop N demand, N utilization efficiency, and response curve characteristics across environments. This work represents one of the largest coordinated evaluations of N × S interactions in U.S. corn production, which was continued in 2026 across nearly 50 sites, and will provide insight into the role of S nutrition in refining future N management strategies. *Dr. Brian Arnall, Oklahoma State University. Tuesday 10:00am and 11:00am.*

"New Tools" for Effective Potassium Management in Corn Production Systems -- Potassium (K) is a major yield-limiting nutrient for corn (Zea mays L.), and accurate K fertilization practices are key for profitable corn production. Tissue testing is an effective tool for diagnosing plant nutritional status; however, critical tissue-K concentrations have not been established for modern high-yielding corn cultivars. Likewise, limited research has investigated the window of opportunity to correct K-deficient corn with in-season fertilization and rescue yield potential. Research was conducted in Arkansas during the 2022 to 2026 corn-growing seasons to determine critical tissue-K concentrations and investigate corn yield response to different fertilizer-K application rates and timings. Fertilizer-K rates (0-200 lb K2O/ac) were applied preplant or in-season (i.e., V6, V10, V12, V14, VT, and R2), and corn was furrow-irrigated. Whole plant samples were collected at V6, and leaf samples at V10, V12, and VT growth stages, and stalk samples were taken at R6 to determine tissue-K concentration. At maturity, corn grain yield was determined. Corn tissue-K concentration was positively related to grain yield, with concentrations above 2.9, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.4% K at V6, V10, V12, and VT, respectively, producing near-maximum relative yield. End-of-season stalk testing was effective in diagnosing corn nutritional status, and deficient (<3353 ppm K), optimum (3353–7142 ppm K), and excessive (>7142 ppm K) stalk-K concentration thresholds for irrigated corn production were defined. In-season fertilization effectively corrected K-deficient corn, and K application until VT produced maximum grain yield, while application as late as R2/R4 partially recovered yield potential. Our results suggest corn is very responsive to K fertilization in soils with sub-optimum K availability; tissue testing is a viable tool to monitor corn K nutrition, and timely in-season K fertilization offers producers flexibility to correct K-deficient corn and maintain yield potential. *Dr. Gerson Drescher, University of Arkansas. Tuesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm.*

Research to Understand and Adress Sulfur Deficiencies -- Sulfur deficiencies are becoming increasingly common in U.S. cropland. This presentation will include research findings on the incidence and magnitude of sulfur deficiencies in corn and wheat, and how these deficiencies can be diagnosed and effectively addressed. *Dr. Hanna Poffenbarger, University of Kentucky. Tuesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm.*

How Do We Utilize Different Fertilizer Management Schemes to our Advantage? -- In this presentation, we will discuss the difference between P and K fertilizer recommendation strategies (Sufficiency vs. Build and Maintain), and how we can use them to our advantage at different times. Also, how can your build and maintain differ between locations. *Dr. Vaughn Reed, Mississippi State University. Wednesday 8:00am and 9:00am.*

Recalibrating the PSNT for Modern Corn Production -- The Pre-Sidedress Soil Nitrate Test (PSNT) has guided nitrogen management in mid-Atlantic corn production for more than three decades, but changes in yields, nitrogen use efficiency, manure management, no-till adoption, and cover crop use have prompted a re-evaluation of its recommendations. This session will review recent Penn State research that recalibrated the PSNT using modern field data from across Pennsylvania. Participants will learn how long-term manure history influences interpretation of PSNT results, why traditional nitrate thresholds may no longer be appropriate, and how updated recommendations improve prediction of economically optimum sidedress nitrogen rates. The presentation will provide practical guidance for using PSNT results to make more accurate, profitable, and environmentally responsible nitrogen management decisions in today's corn production system. *Dr. John Spargo, Pennsylvania State University. Wednesday 10:10am and 11:10am.*

Adaptive Nitrogen and Phosphorus Management -- This presentation will share adaptive management approaches for both nitrogen and phosphorus as applied in New York State. We will emphasize evaluation approaches at the field level including the most recently added option to conduct field N balances for corn silage. We will also touch on the use of whole farm balances for adaptive management of both nitrogen and phosphorus. Anyone interested in dairy sustainability, from farmers and extension advisors to researchers and industry partners, is welcome to join us for an informative session with ample time for questions and discussion. *Dr. Quirine Ketterings, Cornell University. Wednesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm.*

Exploring How to Support Farmer Behavior Change -- There is a recognized need to reduce agricultural fertilizer loss to the environment, while still supporting farm productivity and profitability. The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic 4R Nutrient Stewardship Association and private sector agribusinesses, have implemented and evaluated several new conservation incentive programs, intended to help enable row-crop farmers across the Chesapeake Bay watershed to trial new nutrient management practices. In this talk, the barriers farmers face to adopting new practices will be discussed, as will insights into how to overcome these barriers and support voluntary practice adoption. Drawing on social science data and the outcomes of our conservation incentive programs, we'll focus on lessons learned toward better supporting more widespread improvements in fertilizer management efficiency. *Dr. Matthew Houser, The Nature Conservancy and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Wednesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm.*

Corn Nitrogen Management and Profitability Following Cover Crops: Research Findings and Grower Perspectives -- Cover crops can affect corn N requirements and profitability by altering nutrient availability, fertilizer costs, and yield response. This presentation will share recent findings from cover crop nutrient-cycling and corn N-rate research at the Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The discussion will focus on how cover crop species, biomass, and nutrient accumulation influence corn response to sidedress N and opportunities to reduce fertilizer inputs. The presentation will also highlight Virginia Tech's Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture Cover Crop Subpilot and initial survey results describing grower practices, approaches to determining cover crop N credits, and barriers to adjusting fertilizer N rates. *Dr. Joseph Haymaker, Virginia Tech. Thursday 8:00am and 9:00am.*

Improving Lime Rate Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic -- We present an updated, standardized approach to calculating lime requirements across state lines that is based on our recent lime incubation research using Mid-Atlantic soils. We will discuss the efficacy of the region's main buffer tests and share updated base lime rates across target all pH values (5.2 to 6.8). The new base lime rates prevent over-liming on sandy Coastal Plain soils, protecting crops from manganese and zinc deficiencies, while reliably meeting the higher lime demands of heavier textured upland soils. *Dr. Amy Shober, University of Delaware. Thursday 8:00am and 9:00am.*

Rethinking Nitrogen Rates for Corn After Cover Crops -- Standard nitrogen fertilizer recommendations use simple rules based on expected yield—like applying 1 lb of nitrogen per bushel of corn. But does this rule actually work for fields that have used cover crops and no-till for years? We tested nitrogen needs across 24 Virginia corn fields managed with long-term cover crops. The standard yield-based math failed at 75% of the sites. It recommended too much fertilizer at 11 fields and not enough at 7 fields. Simple single tests, like soil nitrate or cover crop biomass alone, couldn't fix the problem. Instead, free online decision tools (like PSA Cover Crop Nitrogen Calculator, PennState's N-credit tool) worked much better. By combining cover crop details, soil properties, and local weather patterns, these tools provided far more accurate recommendations for each field. Mid-Atlantic farmers using cover crops should explore free online nutrient decision making tools to hit the right nitrogen rates in their field. *Dr. Sapana Pokhrel, University of Delaware. Thursday 10:10am and 11:10am.*

I*V. Pest Management Sessions*

Each Session is Worth 1 CEU in Pest Management unless noted.

Vegetable Insects on the Menu -- Regional vegetable insect pest management updates and trials will be discussed. Participants will be able to sample from a variety of commodity pest topics. *Dr. David Owens, University of Delaware. Tuesday 10:00am and 11:00am.*

Introduction to Herbicide Fate in Soils -- How herbicides behave in the soil is affected by many factors. The nature of the herbicide molecule itself, soil attributes and external factors such as rainfall or temperature all contribute to a complex set of possible outcomes. This talk will cover the fundamental processes and how they interact with each other, including photodegradation, chemical and microbial degradation, volatilization, leaching, surface runoff (a major environmental risk) and plant uptake. All of these processes are influenced by

the adsorption of herbicides onto soil particles, and sorption also greatly affects weed control. *Dr. Thomas Mueller, University of Tennessee. Tuesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm.*

Soybean Disease Management: Variety, Fungicides, and Timing Decisions -- Impacts of foliar soybean diseases on yield can be sporadic. The NC State soybean pathology program is investigating the optimal fungicide application timings across maturity groups and planting dates. The objectives of our research are to investigate the questions around what is driving soybean disease pressure, and disease management practices that could provide greater returns on investment. *Dr. LeAnn Lux, North Carolina State University. Tuesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm.*

Seed Treatment and Coating Technologies -- The overall objective is to present several subtopics on the subject of Modern Seed Technology that focuses on Seed Treatment and Coating Technologies. First, the importance of starting with a high quality seed lot, and maintaining high quality seed before and after seed treatment is presented. The effects of initial seed quality, storage temperature and relative humidity/seed moisture content will be highlighted. Description of seed coating technologies are illustrated that are applicable to a wide range of crop seeds. These coating technologies include dry coating, seed dressing, film coating, encrusting and pelleting. Case studies will be described on seed treatments for early season pest management investigating seed treatment fungicides, insecticides and review of bird repellents. Additional case studies will cover seed treatment biostimulants, and the development of a multiple seed pelleting (MSP) technology to deliver milkweed and other pollinator seed species to enhance biodiversity. *Dr. Alan Taylor, Cornell AgriTech. Wednesday 8:00am and 9:00am.*

Managing Tar Spot in Corn: Research Updates, Practical Tools, and Future Opportunities -- Tar spot has rapidly become one of the most significant foliar diseases affecting corn production across the Midwest, challenging growers to make timely, informed management decisions. Effective management requires integrating hybrid resistance, field scouting, weather-based risk assessment, and timely fungicide applications to minimize yield loss and maximize return on investment. This presentation will review lessons learned from the last nine growing seasons in Indiana, including disease development, environmental drivers, hybrid performance, fungicide efficacy, and advances in disease monitoring and forecasting. Recent research, practical management recommendations, and emerging tools for improving tar spot management will be presented. *Dr. Darcy Telenko, Purdue University. Wednesday 10:10am and 11:10am.*

Weed Control and Crop Response From Soil Applied Herbicides: All Your Questions Answered --The second presentation will build upon yesterday's presentation and will cover the following topics: herbicide uptake and translocation within the plant, residual herbicides in soil, including herbicide activation, what happens when rainfall is insufficient or excessive, effect of soil conditions, a comparison of Group 15 herbicides, including differences in persistence, mobility, adsorption, activation, and weed control consistency, enhanced herbicide degradation, particularly rapid atrazine degradation, herbicide volatility, including dicamba versus 2,4-D, and practical stewardship recommendations and take-home messages for improving herbicide performance while minimizing environmental losses. *Dr. Thomas Mueller, University of Tennessee. Wednesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm.*

Protecting Corn and Soybean Yield Without Chasing Every Insect -- Corn and soybean producers make numerous insect management decisions based on the risk that feeding injury will reduce yield, but the relationship between insect injury and yield loss is not always straightforward. This presentation will examine several examples from recent corn and soybean research. First, field studies evaluating non-Bt corn will be used to discuss the yield potential and economics of non-Bt hybrids, including the importance of hybrid selection and environmental stress. The presentation will then shift to corn earworm in soybean, focusing on pest biology, crop growth stage, and the ability of soybean plants to compensate for injury. Differences in soybean growth habit and production system will be considered as factors that influence the consequences of insect feeding. Finally, recent defoliation studies in full-season and double-cropped soybean will be discussed, including experiments evaluating defoliation intensity and timing at reproductive growth stages. Together, these studies illustrate why predicting yield loss requires considering not simply how much injury occurs, but when it occurs, the crop's capacity to compensate, and the production environment. *Dr. Dominic Reisig. North Carolina State University. Wednesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm.*

V. Soil and Water Management Sessions

Each Session is Worth 1 CEU in Soil and Water Management unless otherwise noted.

Soil Health: Where the Story of Resilience, Value, and Flavor Begins -- All soils and farmers have a story? With soils, we often think in geological time and how the soils were formed by parent material, relief, climate, and organisms. Under these conditions, farmers, graziers, market gardeners, foresters, and landowners are faced what they can manage and change to make their current soils function optimally as a vital living ecosystem so plants, animals, people, and civilizations thrive. For many people managing soil and land, their soil health story and journey started with an "ah ha" moment or soil management experience that surprised or intrigued them. In this session, we will present how soil health is where the story of resilience, value, and flavor begins. We will share the underpinnings and core principles of soil health; research on rotational bale grazing and field demonstrations; stories and conversations about "ah ha" moments, values, and resilience; the 4 the Soil educational campaign; and growing interest and examples in the regional food value chain on the effects of soil health and type on taste and flavor. *Dr. Eric Bendfeldt, Virginia Tech. Tuesday 10:00am and 11:00am.*

Soil Health Management Enhances Water Storage, Nutrient Management and Drought Resilience -- Healthy soil does quiet work for everyone. A field that takes in rain instead of shedding it holds moisture for the crop, keeps fertilizer where it was placed, and sends less sediment and nutrients toward the ditch, the creek, and eventually the drinking water and fisheries downstream. Over two growing seasons, we measured soil health metrics and monitored soil moisture continuously at multiple depths in fields under soil health management and in neighboring conventionally managed fields on similar soils, paired with site-specific rainfall. A companion study of fields in Minnesota and Wisconsin, tracked across three seasons, tells a consistent story. The soil health fields held noticeably more water at the twelve-inch depth for entire seasons, right where roots are working, and that advantage faded below the layer affected by tillage. The conventional fields behaved differently during storms: moisture spiked at the surface and then fell away quickly between rains, the signature of water sitting on a sealed surface rather than moving into the profile. Water that does not infiltrate leaves the field, and it does not leave alone; it carries sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen with it. Potentially mineralizable nitrogen, a measure of what the soil can supply on its own, was the strongest predictor of stored water, while water-stable aggregates tracked infiltration behavior specifically. The practices that make nitrogen available appear to make water available. Biological indicators shift years before total carbon does. Also, a moisture sensor trace can distinguish infiltration from ponding, and aggregate stability is the single property most worth protecting when a tillage decision is on the table. *Dr. Samuel Kwakye, Sand County Foundation. Tuesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm.*

Irrigation Technology, Data Management, and Decision Making -- Advances in irrigation technology are providing producers with an expanding range of tools to monitor field conditions, evaluate crop water needs, and support irrigation management decisions. This presentation will provide an overview of irrigation technologies and decision-support tools, including soil water sensors, plant-based sensing, weather- and evapotranspiration-based approaches, and other emerging technologies, with emphasis on how they work and the information they provide. Benefits and challenges associated with these technologies will be discussed, including considerations related to accuracy, calibration, representativeness, data interpretation, connectivity, and integration of multiple data sources. Economic considerations will also be examined, including the potential for technology investments to reduce pumping, labor, and equipment costs, improve crop productivity, manage risk, and increase confidence in irrigation decisions. Finally, the presentation will explore how producers integrate technology, data, experience, field conditions, system constraints, and risk preferences to determine when and how much to irrigate. *Dr. Daran Rudnick, Kansas State University. Tuesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm.*

Is it Worth Delaying Soybean Planting to Maximize Cover Crop Growth? -- A Case Study of Soil Water Conservation Planting cover crops before soybeans is encouraged in the Mid-Atlantic United States, but it is unclear how the timing of cover crop termination affects soil moisture and soybean water stress and yield. We will share results from a Pennsylvania study where we evaluated soybean yield response to different planting dates (early or late) and cover crop termination times (2 weeks before or immediately after soybean planting). This case study highlights the role of cover cropping on soil moisture dynamics and can be used to inform

optimum cover crop termination tactics to improve soil moisture conservation and soybean yield. *Dr. Daniela Carrijo, Pennsylvania State University. Wednesday 8:00am and 9:00am.*

Towards a Better Understanding of Legacy Phosphorus in Agricultural Soils -- The persistence of legacy phosphorus (P) in soils has undermined the ability of soil conversation practices to improve water quality in agricultural watersheds. Surprisingly, the term legacy P has not been consistently defined in research literature. As a result, confusion often exists regarding what constitutes legacy P, how it is measured, and how it should influence nutrient management decisions. This session will review the current understanding of legacy phosphorus, including its accumulation in soils, stratification within the soil profile, and movement through agricultural landscapes. Discussion will focus on the relationship between soil test phosphorus and legacy P, the conceptual phosphorus pools used in research and modeling, as well as the strengths and limitations of current phosphorus transport models. *Dr. Joshua Mott, Virginia Tech. Wednesday 10:10am and 11:10am.*

Soil Health & NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program -- The NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program, launched in December 2025, aims to implement whole farm planning by addressing all soil and water resource concerns within five-year contracts. Participating producers collaborate with NRCS staff to complete a whole farm assessment, implement at least one primary regenerative management practice, and perform soil health testing during the first and last years of their contract. This session will go over soil health as it relates to CEMA 216 (Soil Health Testing) and the Regenerative Pilot Program. This session will discuss lessons learned from the first year of the program and how it will be implemented in the upcoming year. *Dr. Dana Rushovich, USDA-NRCS. Wednesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm.*

Carve Out Time for Cover Crops: Using Drones for Interseeding in Pumpkin -- Overwintering cover crops are important to preserve and improve soil health; however, benefits are maximized when cover crops have adequate time to establish before winter dormancy. As a result, fall-harvested crops like pumpkin present a challenge for successful cover cropping using traditional, post-harvest seeding methods. Aerial seeding with drones is an alternative yet underutilized strategy which can be completed earlier in the fall without disturbing the pumpkin crop. This presentation will provide an overview of two years of research into this practice in New Jersey as well as highlight important production and legal considerations for aerial seeding cover crops with drones. *Ms. Kate Brown, Rutgers University. Wednesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm.*

Not Just the System: Duration, Soil Health, and Runoff Lessons from Bale Grazing Research -- Winter hay feeding for beef cow-calf herds in the Southeastern United States has traditionally relied on Sacrifice Paddocks (SP), confined areas where cattle are fed hay all winter, concentrating manure and raising runoff risk. Rotational Bale Grazing (RBG) pre-places hay bales across pasture before winter and uses temporary electric fencing to give cattle controlled, sequential access, distributing nutrients more evenly, but its performance in the humid, temperate Mid-Atlantic climate has been unclear. This talk draws on two dissertation studies at the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Raphine, Virginia, comparing how RBG and SP affect soil health and rainfall-driven nutrient and sediment runoff. Soil sampling over three winters showed SP soils maintained higher permanganate oxidizable carbon, total carbon, and total nitrogen than RBG soils, a legacy of over two decades of concentrated feeding rather than a short-term treatment response, while RBG bale-placement locations began accumulating more biologically active carbon than non-bale areas within a single season. Artificial rainfall simulations found that an RBG paddock grazed last in the rotation, with limited time for forage regrowth, produced faster runoff onset and greater sediment and nutrient loads than a paddock grazed first, while long-established SP runoff did not differ significantly from either RBG paddock, likely because decades of manure deposition had built up soil organic matter and improved water infiltration at those sites. These findings show that runoff risk in RBG systems depends heavily on grazing sequence and forage recovery time rather than on the system alone, and that RBG can gradually improve soil health at bale sites, offering practical guidance for producers and conservation planners considering RBG adoption. *Dr. Katherine Hays, Virginia Soil Health Coalition. Thursday 8:00am and 9:00am.*

Utilizing Drip Irrigation and Cover Crops in Corn Production -- Though the Mid-Atlantic is mostly rainfed, subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) offers a promising alternative to traditional irrigation practices. A three-year study (2022-2024) utilized a split-split-plot design to evaluate optimal SDI strategies. Irrigation, N application, seeding rates, and irrigation by N rates interactions significantly influenced grain yield each year. Irrigation

impact on yield was 102%, 13%, and 51% over non-irrigated in 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively. These findings highlight SDI's effectiveness in increasing maize yield and profitability, reducing production risks in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region. *Dr. Hunter Frame, Virginia Tech. Thursday 10:10am and 11:10am.*

VI. Alternative Session

CEUs for each session are provided after the abstract

When Disputes Hit the Farm: Free Mediation Help Through University of Maryland's New Mediation Program -- Farm disputes over leases, USDA loan decisions, farm transition planning, and neighbor conflicts can threaten a farm's viability if left unresolved. This session introduces the new University of Maryland agricultural mediation program, Maryland's newly USDA-certified mediation program, launched through a partnership between the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Attendees will learn what issues qualify for mediation, how the referral and intake process works, and how confidential mediation services can resolve conflicts faster and at lower cost than litigation. Consultants and farm advisors will leave knowing how to connect clients with these free services. *Mr. Paul Goeringer, University of Maryland. Tuesday 10:00am and 11:00am (1 CEU in Professional Development).*

Beyond the Symptom: A Diagnostician's Approach to Crop Problems -- Proper diagnosis of field problems is the first step toward effective management. We will cover how to differentiate disease and insect problems from abiotic issues, as well as how to collect and submit a high-quality sample to improve the chances of an accurate diagnosis. We'll wrap up with a fun, interactive Kahoot game to put your diagnostic skills to the test. *Dr. Jill Pollock, University of Delaware. Tuesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm (1 CEU in Pest Management).*

Nutrient Tissue Sampling in Specialty Crops -- Nutrient tissue sampling is a critical tool for nutrient management in specialty crop production. Sampling paired with the context of the production system provide insight into farmers' fertility management and fertilizer use efficiency. The results of tissue sampling are compared back to recommended nutrient sufficiency ranges which vary by crop, growth stage, and region. Understanding how to properly nutrient tissue sample and interpret results is key to have a handle on a farm's fertility program. In this presentation Dr. Lay-Walters will use several specialty crops as examples to present how to nutrient tissue sample, how to interpret results, and common oversights during nutrient monitoring. *Dr. Amanda Lay-Walters, Virginia Tech. Tuesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm (1 CEU in Nutrient Management).*

Navigating a Nemesis: Updates in Nematode Management -- Whether it is soybean cyst, root knot, or others, nematodes can be a yield limiting factor in agronomic and vegetable crops. This session will review major nematodes groups, symptoms, and field distributions to improve scouting approaches and monitor presence of nematodes in vegetable operations. We will also discuss recent research on management options, product evaluation, and multi-year population tracking. *Dr. Alyssa Betts, University of Delaware. Wednesday 8:00am and 9:00am (1 CEU in Pest Management).*

Pros and Cons of Biodegradable Plastic Mulches in Vegetable Production -- Soil-biodegradable plastic mulches (BDMs) offer a potential solution to agricultural plastic waste, but field performance must be thoroughly evaluated before widespread adoption. This talk presents results from a two-year trial in Maryland testing multiple BDM formulations in vegetable crop production. Key topics include in-season durability, weed suppression, crop yield impacts, and fruit adhesion on melon crops. Post-season soil degradation progress will also be addressed to help growers and agricultural advisors evaluate the viability of BDMs for local operations. *Dr. Veronica Yurchak, University of Maryland. Wednesday 10:10am and 11:10am (1 CEU in Crop Management).*

Can AI Be Trusted for Crop Recommendations? -- Artificial intelligence tools, especially large language models, are increasingly being used to answer agricultural questions and support decision-making. In this presentation, I will share results from Penn State Extension case studies on AI-generated crop recommendations and discuss what worked well and what did not. I will also show how different AI models perform when interpreting plant disease photos and explain the limits of image-based diagnosis and recommendations. A simple CRAFT prompt framework—Context, Role, Action, Format, and Tone—will be used to show how better prompts can improve AI output. The goal is to give crop consultants a practical way to use AI carefully while

keeping Extension and research-based information at the center of recommendations. *Ms. Leah Fronk, Pennsylvania State University. Wednesday 1:00pm and 2:00pm (1 CEU in Precision Agriculture).*

Introduction to USDA Certified Organic Production -- Since the late 2010's there has been a considerable surge in market demand for certified organic products. In the Mid-Atlantic, there are more than 750,000 acres of certified acres, generating over 1.4 billion dollars in annual sales. Although organic production may not be the right fit for every farming operation, understanding the fundamentals of organic certification, production practices, and marketing strategies might reveal some opportunities to diversify and strengthen farm businesses. Transitioning to organic production, at any scale, can be a daunting task, but the premium typically associated with organic products can help offset much of the associated risks if managed properly. This presentation will introduce the basics of USDA Certified Organic production, outline the certification process, and discuss key management considerations. It will also highlight some alternative certification programs and networks that may provide additional market opportunities and price premiums for producers. *Dr. Joshua Mott, Virginia Tech. Wednesday 3:10pm and 4:10pm (1 CEU in Sustainability).*

Blueberries and Blackberries: Which Varieties Perform Best in the Mid-Atlantic? -- Cultivar selection can have a major impact on yield, fruit quality, harvest season, and overall profitability of blueberry and blackberry production. We will share results and observations from University of Maryland blueberry and blackberry variety trials conducted under Mid-Atlantic growing conditions. Cultivars were compared for yield, harvest timing, fruit quality, and field performance, with a focus on identifying promising options for commercial growers in the region. *Dr. Haley Sater, University of Maryland. Thursday 10:10am and 11:10am (1 CEU in Crop Management).*

VII. Becoming a CCA – Special Section

Thursday morning will feature a four-session block to provide insight and guidance to those interested in becoming a Certified Crop Advisor. Some sessions may provide CEUs but anyone with an interest in becoming a CCA should plan to attend these presentations. Each presentation is presented only once.

Becoming a Trusted Crop Advisor: Lessons from the Field -- This session will introduce early-career professionals to the field of crop consulting through the lens of a Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) and why that role matters. Topics include building client relationships, expanding your knowledge base, and applying lessons from the field. Through real-life scenarios, participants will learn how to identify problems, research causes and solutions using trusted resources, and clearly communicate recommendations to clients. By the end of the talk, participants will have a better understanding of how CCAs support responsible crop management, diagnose crop threats, and make informed recommendations. *Mr. Phillip Sylvester, Sylvester Crop Consulting LLC. Thursday 8:00am. **CCA Credit will NOT be offered for this talk***

Prepare to Succeed: Navigating a Path to Success on Certification Exams -- Passing certification exams can feel daunting, overwhelming, and even impossible to do amid a busy life. This presentation will help you explore the science of learning and remembering. We will also dive into organizing and managing your time so you can adequately prepare for the exam, and discuss strategies for taking the exam and what to do on test day. Prepare to succeed! *Dr. Louis Becht, University of Delaware. Thursday 9:00am. **CCA Credit will NOT be offered for this talk***

Ready, Set, Scout: Interactive CCA IPM Review -- Training to become a certified crop advisor? Need a brush up on IPM principles? Using live and preserved samples, interactive games, and other approaches we will review knowledge needed for the IPM Proficiency Area of the Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor Exam. Whether you are new or seasoned, this session will bring you up to speed or refresh key IPM topics. *Dr. Alyssa Betts and Dr. David Owens, University of Delaware. Thursday 10:10am. **CCA Credit will NOT be offered for this talk***

ETHICS TALK. *Mr. Isaac Wolford, X. Thursday 11:10am.*

2026 Crop Management School Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Time	Palmetto 2 & 3 (upstairs)	Palmetto 4 & 5 (upstairs)	Barbados & Cayman (downstairs)	Dominica & Eleuthera (downstairs)	Palmetto 1 (upstairs)
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Pest Management**	**Soil & Water**	**Alternative**
10:00 - 10:50	A Comparison Between Perennial and Perennial/Annual Combination Forage Systems under Mixed-Species Grazing *Amanda Grev*	How does Sulfur Impact Nitrogen Fertilization in Corn *Brian Arnall*	Vegetable Insects on the Menu *David Owens*	Soil Health: Where the Story of Resilience, Value, and Flavor Begins *Eric Bendfeldt*	When Disputes Hit the Farm: Free Mediation Help Through University of Maryland's New Mediation Program *Paul Goeringer*
11:00 - 11:50	A Comparison Between Perennial and Perennial/Annual Combination Forage Systems under Mixed-Species Grazing *Amanda Grev*	How does Sulfur Impact Nitrogen Fertilization in Corn *Brian Arnall*	Vegetable Insects on the Menu *David Owens*	Soil Health: Where the Story of Resilience, Value, and Flavor Begins *Eric Bendfeldt*	When Disputes Hit the Farm: Free Mediation Help Through University of Maryland's New Mediation Program *Paul Goeringer*
11:50 - 1:00	**LUNCH BREAK**				
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Pest Management**	**Soil & Water**	**Alternative**
1:00 - 1:50	Beyond Yield: Using TAPS to Improve Farm Management Decisions *Daran Rudnick & Chris Proctor*	“New Tools” for Effective Potassium Management in Corn Production Systems *Gerson Drescher*	Introduction to Herbicide Fate in Soils *Thomas Mueller*	Soil Health Management Enhances Water Storage, Nutrient Management and Drought Resilience *Samuel Kwakye*	Beyond the Symptom: A Diagnostician’s Approach to Crop Problems *Jill Pollok*
2:00 - 2:50	Beyond Yield: Using TAPS to Improve Farm Management Decisions *Daran Rudnick & Chris Proctor*	“New Tools” for Effective Potassium Management in Corn Production Systems *Gerson Drescher*	Introduction to Herbicide Fate in Soils *Thomas Mueller*	Soil Health Management Enhances Water Storage, Nutrient Management and Drought Resilience *Samuel Kwakye*	Beyond the Symptom: A Diagnostician’s Approach to Crop Problems *Jill Pollok*

2026 Crop Management School Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 (continued)

Time	Palmetto 2 & 3 (upstairs)	Palmetto 4 & 5 (upstairs)	Barbados & Cayman (downstairs)	Dominica & Eleuthera (downstairs)	Palmetto 1 (upstairs)
2:50 - 3:10	**BREAK**				
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Pest Management**	**Soil & Water**	**Alternative**
3:10 - 4:00	Dual Purpose Wheat: Forage and Grain on the Same Acre *Vaughn Reed*	Research to Understand and Adress Sulfur Deficiencies *Hanna Poffenbarger*	Soybean Disease Management: Variety, Fungicides, and Timing Decisions *LeAnn Lux*	Irrigation Technology, Data Management, and Decision Making *Daran Rudnick*	Nutrient Tissue Sampling in Specialty Crops *Amanda Lay-Walters*
4:10 - 5:00	Dual Purpose Wheat: Forage and Grain on the Same Acre *Vaughn Reed*	Research to Understand and Adress Sulfur Deficiencies *Hanna Poffenbarger*	Soybean Disease Management: Variety, Fungicides, and Timing Decisions *LeAnn Lux*	Irrigation Technology, Data Management, and Decision Making *Daran Rudnick*	Nutrient Tissue Sampling in Specialty Crops *Amanda Lay-Walters*

2026 Crop Management School Workshop Schedule

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Time	Palmetto 2 & 3 (upstairs)	Palmetto 4 & 5 (upstairs)	Barbados & Cayman (downstairs)	Dominica & Eleuthera (downstairs)	Palmetto 1 (upstairs)
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Pest Management**	**Soil & Water**	**Alternative**
8:00 - 8:50	Use of Drones for Spraying and Seeding Applications *Simer Virk*	How Do We Utilize Different Fertilizer Management Schemes to our Advantage? *Vaughn Reed*	Seed Treatment and Coating Technologies *Alan Taylor*	Is it Worth Delaying Soybean Planting to Maximize Cover Crop Growth? A Case Study of Soil Water Conservation *Daniela Carrijo*	Navigating a Nemesis: Updates in Nematode Management *Alyssa Betts*
9:00 - 9:50	Use of Drones for Spraying and Seeding Applications *Simer Virk*	How Do We Utilize Different Fertilizer Management Schemes to our Advantage? *Vaughn Reed*	Seed Treatment and Coating Technologies *Alan Taylor*	Is it Worth Delaying Soybean Planting to Maximize Cover Crop Growth? A Case Study of Soil Water Conservation *Daniela Carrijo*	Navigating a Nemesis: Updates in Nematode Management *Alyssa Betts*
9:50 - 10:10	**BREAK**				
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Pest Management**	**Soil & Water**	**Alternative**
10:10 - 11:00	Assessing Agronomic and Economic Effects of Varying Nitrogen Rates and Split Application Timings in Corn *Raman Sharma*	Recalibrating the PSNT for Modern Corn Production *John Spargo*	Managing Tar Spot in Corn: Research Updates, Practical Tools, and Future Opportunities *Darcy Telenko*	Towards a Better Understanding of Legacy Phosphorus in Agricultural Soils *Joshua Mott*	Pros and Cons of Biodegradable Plastic Mulches in Vegetable Production *Veronica Yurchak*
11:10 - 12:00	Assessing Agronomic and Economic Effects of Varying Nitrogen Rates and Split Application Timings in Corn *Raman Sharma*	Recalibrating the PSNT for Modern Corn Production *John Spargo*	Managing Tar Spot in Corn: Research Updates, Practical Tools, and Future Opportunities *Darcy Telenko*	Towards a Better Understanding of Legacy Phosphorus in Agricultural Soils *Joshua Mott*	Pros and Cons of Biodegradable Plastic Mulches in Vegetable Production *Veronica Yurchak*
12:00 - 1:00	**LUNCH BREAK**				

2026 Crop Management School Workshop Schedule

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 (continued)

Time	Palmetto 2 & 3 (upstairs)	Palmetto 4 & 5 (upstairs)	Barbados & Cayman (downstairs)	Dominica & Eleuthera (downstairs)	Palmetto 1 (upstairs)
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Pest Management**	**Soil & Water**	**Alternative**
1:00 - 1:50	Starting Cover Crops Before Corn Harvest: Interseeding Timing, Residual Herbicides and Corn Height *Chris Proctor*	Adaptive Nitrogen and Phosphorus Management *Quirine Ketterings*	Weed Control and Crop Response From Soil Applied Herbicides: All Your Questions Answered *Thomas Mueller*	Soil Health & NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program *Dana Rushovich*	Can AI Be Trusted for Crop Recommendations? *Leah Fronk*
2:00 - 2:50	Starting Cover Crops Before Corn Harvest: Interseeding Timing, Residual Herbicides and Corn Height *Chris Proctor*	Adaptive Nitrogen and Phosphorus Management *Quirine Ketterings*	Weed Control and Crop Response From Soil Applied Herbicides: All Your Questions Answered *Thomas Mueller*	Soil Health & NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program *Dana Rushovich*	Can AI Be Trusted for Crop Recommendations? *Leah Fronk*
2:50-3:10	**BREAK**				
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Pest Management**	**Soil & Water**	**Alternative**
3:10 - 4:00	From Raw Yield Monitor Data to Actionable Information *Quirine Ketterings*	Exploring How to Support Farmer Behavior Change *Matthew Houser*	Protecting Corn and Soybean Yield Without Chasing Every Insect *Dominic Reisig*	Carve Out Time for Cover Crops: Using Drones for Interseeding in Pumpkin *Kate Brown*	Introduction to USDA Certified Organic Production *Joshua Mott*
4:10 - 5:00	From Raw Yield Monitor Data to Actionable Information *Quirine Ketterings*	Exploring How to Support Farmer Behavior Change *Matthew Houser*	Protecting Corn and Soybean Yield Without Chasing Every Insect *Dominic Reisig*	Carve Out Time for Cover Crops: Using Drones for Interseeding in Pumpkin *Kate Brown*	Introduction to USDA Certified Organic Production *Joshua Mott*

2025 Crop Management School Workshop Schedule

Thursday, November 19, 2026

Time	Palmetto 2 & 3 (upstairs)	Palmetto 4 & 5 (upstairs)	Barbados & Cayman (downstairs)	Dominica & Eleuthera (downstairs)	Palmetto 1 (upstairs)
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Soil & Water**	**Becoming a CCA**
8:00 - 8:50	Early Planted Soybean: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly *Laura Lindsey*	Corn Nitrogen Management and Profitability Following Cover Crops: Research Findings and Grower Perspectives *Joseph Haymaker*	Improving Lime Rate Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic *Amy Shober*	Not Just the System: Duration, Soil Health, and Runoff Lessons from Bale Grazing Research *Katherine Hays*	Becoming a Trusted Crop Advisor: Lessons from the Field *Phillip Sylvester*
9:00 - 9:50	Early Planted Soybean: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly *Laura Lindsey*	Corn Nitrogen Management and Profitability Following Cover Crops: Research Findings and Grower Perspectives *Joseph Haymaker*	Improving Lime Rate Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic *Amy Shober*	Not Just the System: Duration, Soil Health, and Runoff Lessons from Bale Grazing Research *Katherine Hays*	Prepare to Succeed: Navigating a Path to Success on Certification Exams *Louis Becht*
9:50-10:10	**BREAK**				
Session	**Crop Management**	**Nutrient Management**	**Alternative**	**Soil & Water**	**Becoming a CCA**
10:10 - 11:00	Does Your Soybean Field Need Replanted? Results from a National Replant Study *Laura Lindsey*	Rethinking Nitrogen Rates for Corn After Cover Crops *Sapana Pokhrel*	Blueberries and Blackberries: Which Varieties Perform Best in the Mid-Atlantic? *Haley Sater*	Utilizing Drip Irrigation and Cover Crops in Corn Production *Hunter Frame*	Ready, Set, Scout: Interactive CCA IPM Review *Alyssa Betts & David Owens*
11:10 - 12:00	Does Your Soybean Field Need Replanted? Results from a National Replant Study *Laura Lindsey*	Rethinking Nitrogen Rates for Corn After Cover Crops *Sapana Pokhrel*	Blueberries and Blackberries: Which Varieties Perform Best in the Mid-Atlantic? *Haley Sater*	Utilizing Drip Irrigation and Cover Crops in Corn Production *Hunter Frame*	Isaac Wolford

2026 Planning Committee

Executive Committee

Dr. Nicole Fiorellino – University of Maryland
Dr. Jarrod Miller – University of Delaware
Dr. Amy Shober – University of Delaware

Administrative Support

Ms. Taylor Robinson – University of Maryland
Ms. Gioiella Del Vecchio – University of Delaware

CEU Coordinator

Ms. Sydney Riggi – University of Delaware
Mr. Drew Harris – University of Delaware

Evaluation Coordinator

Ms. Emily Zobel – University of Maryland

Program Teams

Crop Management

Dr. Nicole Fiorellino (Leader)– University of Maryland
Dr. Jarrod Miller – University of Delaware
Dr. Raman Sharma – Rutgers University
Mr. Hayden Schug – University of Maryland

Nutrient Management

Dr. Mark Reiter (Leader) – Virginia Tech
Dr. Amy Shober – University of Delaware
Ms. Maegan Perdue – University of Maryland
Dr. Joseph Haymaker – Virginia Tech

Pest Management

Dr. David Owens (Leader) – University of Delaware
Dr. Alyssa Koehler – University of Delaware
Dr. Mark VanGessel – University of Delaware
Dr. Kurt Vollmer – University of Maryland

Soil and Water Management

Dr. Sarah Hirsh (Leader) – University of Maryland
Dr. Travis Ford - University of Maryland
Dr. Haley Sater – University of Maryland
Mr. Isaac Wolford – USDA NRCS

Alternative Session

Mr. Andrew Kness (Leader) – University of Maryland
Ms. Erika Crowl – University of Maryland
Ms. Lyndsie Mikkelson – University of Delaware
Dr. Joshua Mott – Virginia Tech
Dr. Veronica Yurchak – University of Maryland

The Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School is sponsored by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and University of Maryland Extension, in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Board, and the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS).

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